



## LAC LA BELLE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

[www.llbmd.org](http://www.llbmd.org)

Commissioners Meeting  
**THURSDAY, October 15, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.**

*“The LLBMD seeks to promote environmentally conscious and fiscally responsible decisions by providing education, enhancing a healthy lake ecosystem and ensuring safe use of Lac La Belle for today and tomorrow.”*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually via Zoom with additional dial-in information provided on the agenda to allow public access to the meeting.

### Minutes

1. Call to Order

D. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

2. Roll Call of Commissioners

Present

Dan Bauer  
Ernie Bollinger  
Karen Carr (arrived 7:15 P.M.)  
Jim Groose  
Terry Largent  
Dave Zimmermann

Absent

3. Emailed Comments from the Floor – None.

4. Correspondence

Emails

Various emails from Brooke Donovan, City of Oconomowoc, regarding Lake Level Reports (9/15)

July 17, 2020 - Tim Clark – Boat Patrol

July 29, 2020 - WIDNR Rock River Recovery –August Newsletter

July 29, 2020 – Lisa Conley - Actual Restorable Wetlands Webinar

July 29, 2020 – Julie Larsen – Press Release

August 3, 2020 – Larry Halvorson – Lac La Belle Management District

August 4, 2020 - Aquatic Invasive Species Update –August 2020

August 4, 2020 – Drew Starch – Nighttime Boat Speed

August 6 & 8, 2020 – Mike Bertrand - Spillway from Fowler into Labelle

August 6, 2020 – Tim Clarke – Easement Concerns

August 7, 2020 -Lisa Conley – Wake Boats etc.

August 9, 2020 – Brad Steckart - AIS Snapshot Day, Starry Stonewort Week, and Quarterly Meeting Announcement

August 12, 2020- Sue Herro – Recent Notice  
August 12, 2020 – Julie Larsen - 517 N Lake Ed  
August 26, 2020 – Jeff Riedemann - Rough Fish Contract  
August 21, 2020 – Chief Wallis – Nighttime Boat Speed  
August 31, 2020 - WIDNR Rock River Recovery –September Newsletter  
September 5, 2020 – Mark Frye – Lac La Belle Carp Barrier  
September 10, 2020 – Jill Bedford – Questions about your lake shoreline program  
September 10, 2020 - Aquatic Invasive Species Update – September 2020  
September 16, 2020 – Bradley Steckart - September 23rd - Lake Country Clean Waters Quarterly Meeting  
September 22, 2020 – Paul Carpenter – Fund The Park  
September 30, 2020 – Beth Hoepfer-Jezo – Streamings Newsletter  
September 30, 2020 - WIDNR Rock River Recovery –October Newsletter

5. Approval of July 16, 2020 LLBMD Meeting Minutes

**D. Zimmermann moved to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2020 Meeting as presented. E. Bollinger seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

6. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer’s Report and Payment Authorizations were reviewed by the Treasurer. An additional invoice had been received for Aquatic Invasive Species services provided through Waukesha County in the amount of \$1,000. A donation had been made to the LLBMD from Wisconsin Lift Truck recently.

**E. Bollinger moved to approve payment of the Aquatic Invasive Species service fee in the amount of \$1,000 as presented. J. Bode seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

**J. Bode moved to approve payment authorizations and to approve the October 15, 2020 Treasurer’s Report as presented. E. Bollinger seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

a. Update From Dan Bauer On Treasurer Presentation

D. Bauer provided a report on a presentation hosted by Wisconsin Lakes Association regarding budgeting and financial reporting for lake management districts.

7. Presentation By Ginny Pease Regarding Citizen Lake Monitoring Network – Lac La Belle

**Ginny Pease, LLBMD resident and Citizen Lake Monitor for Lac La Belle**, presented data from 2020 lake monitoring efforts. She was part of the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) and was responsible for collecting data in the Northwest Basin and the Deep Hole in Lac La Belle. Another citizen collected readings from the southern end of the lake. Collections were made from May to mid-September with 13 Secchi disk readings, three dissolved oxygen readings and three water

samples sent to the lab for analysis throughout the summer months. Each time she collected data it was coordinated with a DNR satellite overhead that allowed the DNR to calibrate other lake readings where there were no CLMN volunteers. All data collected was available to the public on the Wisconsin DNR/CLMN website. Her findings in the Deep Hole noted the center of the lake was mesotrophic meaning there was moderately clear water but had an increased chance of low dissolved oxygen in deep water during the summer. Low dissolved oxygen could impact fishing. When graphing the Secchi Disk data since 1974, trends were noted in both measurement areas of the lake. In the Northwest Basin the average reading was 4.29 feet. In the Deep Hole, the average reading was 6.1 feet. The water was typically classified as murky and green. The green meant that the lake was impacted by algae; however, since summer chlorophyll readings were lower, this indicated that the suspended marl from the marl lake bottom could have impacted the readings. In the Northwest Basin there were different indications showing the lake was eutrophic based on its characteristics. Water clarity had decreased to a level of 3.92 feet in Secchi Disk readings indicating there was more oxygen depletion and fewer algal species with plant overgrowth evident. This could affect the fishing in that area. No water sampling had taken place at this sample site. The data provided indicated trends over time. It was important to monitor these trends in the future and to continue to educate residents about the impacts that activities had on the lake.

D. Bauer thanked G. Pease on behalf of all LLBMD residents and the Board for doing this work and providing a report. J. Goose questioned whether the dissolved oxygen readings indicated deeper oxygen depletion below the thermocline. G. Pease explained data indicated that the oxygen was depleted below the thermocline and this could affect the fish in that area. The dissolved oxygen data was provided to the DNR and it would be helpful if the DNR could provide a summary about the data. J. Bode explained there were long-term records associated with the lake readings and the time and effort to gather this data was impressive. Typically, in the mid to late summer months fish began to cluster along the thermocline or along the shoreline. There seemed to be a two to three-inch layer of soft sediment that was stirred by boating activity. He noted there was a decrease in the plant growth activity in the lake which correlated with a lack of water clarity and light penetration needed to initiate and sustain plant growth. There was a decrease in plant rooted growth in Lac La Belle that was bothersome. The DNR used the CLMN data to review water clarity and improve roughfish control and bio-mass in the lake. Discussion ensued regarding the amount of hydraulic residence time water spent in the lake. Hydraulic residence time was the time that the water in the lake took to discharge and was no longer in the lake. Estimates were that it typically took 10 years for Lac La Belle waters to completely cycle. Discussion took place regarding the impact of the limitations to boat launch traffic on the lake. The information provided by G. Pease's CLMN data could be found on the SWIMS database on the Wisconsin DNR website.

8. Presentation By Ben Heussner Regarding Fisheries Management

**Ben Heussner, DNR Fisheries Biologist**, provided an update on several topics affecting Lac La Belle. Phase One had been completed on the electrical carp barrier in Ixonia. The barrier had been ineffective at low power and unsafe at high power. The national authority on electrical barriers had provided an initial report on the carp barrier and the DNR awaited the next report on the implementation phase (Phase 2).

The dam on West Wisconsin Avenue in the City of Oconomowoc provided an alternative physical barrier for carp. When the dam was reconstructed in 2013, fish grates were removed that had

prevented migration of carp. While some viewed this as beneficial, the grates also blocked the migration of beneficial species. The grates had been stored by the City of Oconomowoc since that time. There was an existing 1973 agreement that required updating to have the City continue to provide maintenance work on the fish grates along with re-installation of the grates. Other maintenance work included raking the grates to free them of clogs and debris that would raise the water levels. A gate could be added in the fish grate to allow the DNR to open the grate when it was time for desirable fish to spawn. A crane would be needed to re-install the grates and should be kept in mind when planning the re-installation of the grates at the dam. B. Heussner would continue to coordinate efforts with City staff for re-installation of the dam grates.

L. Conley questioned when the optimum time of year occurred to take advantage of downstream migration. B. Heussner noted the carp migrate downriver this time of year which was known because there were receivers placed in fish in the river at large. The carp migrated further downstream so the Oconomowoc River would not be harmed due to the gate in the grate.

B. Heussner explained the bulk of the carp that were in Lac La Belle at this point were not Common Carp but were either Bigmouth or Smallmouth Buffalo Fish, known simply as Buffalo. Buffalo was a native fish. The two fish looked very similar and were often confused for carp. Bigmouth Buffalo were present in Lac La Belle at a 4:1 ratio currently, making Common Carp much less of a concern than they used to be. Both Bigmouth and Smallmouth Buffalo were filter feeders that would root around the sediment to feed causing a negative impact on the zooplankton community which could then disrupt the overall fishery balance. Smallmouth Buffalo were considered worse than Bigmouth but not as bad as Common Carp. The serrated spines of the Common Carp caused plants to be uprooted. Recent electrofishing efforts had noted a lack of Common Carp in the lake and the presence of Buffalo in larger numbers. This would be beneficial for the commercial roughfish fisherman. New DNR equipment had allowed a look at the bottom of Lac La Belle this summer with debris findings, including a boat and a pier. Some of the debris might need to be moved over a bit to allow the woody structure to remain for the fishery and the commercial fish harvesting to take place. D. Bauer would continue to work with the commercial fisherman to finalize the Commercial Roughfish Contract.

B. Heussner noted that during the electrofishing 20 fish were acoustically tagged. Typically, Common Carp were used for tagging; however, none could be found so another fish was used that would give up the location of the school. There were 10 fish tagged in Lac La Belle and 10 fish downstream with receivers in the Oconomowoc River tracking migration. Additional efforts would be made to locate Common Carp while electrofishing this fall.

a. Discuss & Act On DNR Roughfish Contract

There was no action taken. Additional discussions would take place with Jeff Riedemann, Commercial Carp Fisherman, regarding the timeline for fishing to finalize the DNR Roughfish contract.

b. Discuss & Act On Dam Grates

This item was discussed by B. Heussner previously in the meeting. No action was taken. Please see above.

9. Discuss & Act On LLBMD Boundary Questions From Waukesha County

The LLBMD was contacted by Waukesha County in July 2020 regarding boundary questions relative to various properties located within the District. Research was conducted noting LLBMD boundaries had not changed. There were properties originally included in the District that had been developed over time. Discussion ensued regarding the timing of taxation for property owners. Impacted LLBMD residents would be notified of the situation once Waukesha County staff clarified the necessary procedure to do so.

10. Update On Lac La Belle Creek Project

Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant funding review processes were underway with the DNR. A decision would not be expected until November 2020. Under a former TRM grant, work had begun to stabilize areas of the Lac La Belle Creek. The recent project was to stabilize the bank of the creek adjacent to the Village of Lac La Belle detention pond. The Village of Lac La Belle had contracted Prestwick to construct the project. Construction improvement photos had been provided to Commissioners in advance of the meeting. Additional information would be available at the next LLBMD in 2021.

11. Update on 2020 Grants – Clean Boats, Clean Waters, Lake Planning Grant & Targeted Runoff Management Grant

The Targeted Runoff Management Grant notification of award would not take place until November and monies would not be available until 2021. The report from Onterra related to the Point Intercept Survey work for the Surface Water/Lake Planning grant would be available after November 1, 2020. It was important to note that Starry Stonewort was not found in Lac La Belle this year during the study. Also, there was not an increase of biomass or plant diversity. Rooted plant depths decreased from 15 feet to less than 12 feet and should be monitored in the future.

**Samantha Lammers, Waukesha County AIS coordinator**, noted there were 219 hours provided by interns, Mohammed and Steve, this past summer season as part of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant program. The full-time interns took turns through the year with most of their experience at City Beach – Lac La Belle launch. It was noted that most people asked great questions about the lake and were quite proud of the community. These efforts were greatly appreciated by Waukesha County. A Point Intercept Survey was conducted on Fowler Lake with the interns assisted by the weed harvester crew over a two-day period. Starry Stonewort was not found in Fowler Lake or any new area lakes this year, perhaps due to the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program implementation in area lakes. Lake property owners were familiar with the lake along their shoreline and it was the cooperation of property owners, boaters, the DNR and the AIS team that made the program work well. She was hopeful the CBCW grant program could be used on Lac La Belle next year as well.

J. Bode thanked S. Lammers and interns for their efforts this past summer, noting all had been great to work with on the program. Additional lake experiences were provided to the interns because of the success of the program. It was helpful to have many area lakes work on the same initiatives, such as the CBCW at the same time to reduce the number of AIS entering area waterways. A small increase of 3%-5% in the CBCW program costs should be expected in 2021 and he recommended

support of the program increase because of the successful program experience that took place this past year. He would continue to work with Waukesha County staff to prepare and submit the 2021 CBCW grant application and IGA.

12. Update on September 23, 2020 Lake Country Clean Waters Meeting

Item 14 on the agenda would be discussed concurrently with Items 12 and 12a. E. Bollinger attended the September 23, 2020 Lake Country Clean Waters virtual meeting. The Lake Country Clean Waters organization had previously been funded through grant initiatives and this would no longer be the case moving forward. For that reason, area lake management districts were being asked to donate funding to the organization as noted in 12a. North Lake Management District had been studying the effects of wakeboats on area lakes and information had been provided to the Board in advance of the meeting on this topic. A scientific multi-year study was being conducted to determine wakeboat impacts and how that type of boat compared to others regarding lake impact. D. Bauer would contact North Lake Management District to learn more about the data being provided in the study.

a. Discuss & Act On Donation To Lake Country Clean Waters Organization

All lake districts were being asked to donate \$1,000 to the Lake Country Clean Waters Organization due to losing the grant that had previously funded the organization's work. Discussion ensued. The LCCW had brought Lake Country lake groups together and this was helpful and educational in keeping up with pertinent lake management information.

**J. Goose moved to donate \$1,000 to the Lake Country Clean Waters Organization. K. Carr seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

13. Update On Police Patrols On Lac La Belle

D. Bauer discussed the matter of police patrols on Lac La Belle with Town of Oconomowoc Police Chief Wallis since the last meeting. The lake was being patrolled and additional patrols were noted later in the summer. Patrols were stopping boaters to provide educational information as needed related to speed limits, registration, noise and running with docking lights on while underway. Discussion ensued regarding speed limits on the lake. Boating rules would be provided in the 2021 Spring LLBMD newsletter and on the LLBMD website in 2021.

D. Bauer recessed the meeting at 8:55 P.M. and reconvened the meeting at 9:00 P.M.

14. Discuss & Act On Wakeboat Activity

This item was discussed previously. Please see above.

15. Discuss & Act On "Build A Park At 517"

This item was discussed concurrently with Item 16. D. Bauer thanked B. and L. Conley for being present to provide history regarding Item 16. B. Conley provided historical information about land owned by the DNR and Department of Transportation at the north end of Lac La Belle. The property

was 28 acres comprised of highland and 25 acres of wetland with water that used to drain to the lake but had now been redirected to drainage settling ponds. The Lac La Belle Environmental Foundation (LLBEF) owned some other parcels of land in the area, but the Foundation had been dormant for years with registration kept active on an annual basis. The LLBEF was formed to help augment purchases of land rights for conservation easements to help protect the waters and land around Lac La Belle. This property was currently owned by the Village of Lac La Belle and would be one of the last opportunities to pull in land that might be of interest for the entire lake. One parcel was zoned for recreation and it would make an ideal park or passive use space. He had also spoken to Tall Pines Conservancy staff about the land as well. Purchase of the land would be great to improve the water quality of the lake and it would also prevent this area from creating additional runoff because of being farmed in the past. In addition, the purchase of this property would provide an adjacent property border to land already owned by the LLBEF. E. Bollinger questioned what other properties were owned by the LLBEF. Various parcels were depicted on a shared screen map. A listing of LLBEF properties would be provided to the LLBMD.

All Commissioners were aware of the current “Build A Park 517” campaign going on in the community at this time. The public was being solicited for donations in a matching campaign to purchase the property located at 517 North Main Street in Oconomowoc so it could be turned into a park. A contiguous parcel had been purchased by an Oconomowoc family and would be donated to the park if the 517 parcel could be purchased. If monies were not raised by January 31, 2021 deadline, all donations would be returned to the public and the land purchased by a developer to build condominiums. Discussion ensued regarding donating as suggested by two LLBMD residents. It was noted that the property at 517 N. Main Street was not part of the LLBMD but would provide portage access between the two lakes, improve recreation, enjoyment and potentially water quality as well. Adding additional impervious surface and boats on Fowler Lake would directly impact Lac La Belle since Fowler Lake contributed to the nutrient phosphorus loading as a result of being on a chain of lakes with Lac La Belle being the last in the chain. Concern was expressed that any LLBMD funds spent would be to purchase a property that did not directly impact Lac La Belle. Some LLBMD residents might not support the use of funding in this way. Discussion ensued. Commissioners represented all members of the District. Action could be taken in the future if desired. No action was taken at this time.

D. Bauer moved to Item 17 and the remainder of the agenda.

16. Discuss Future Land Acquisition Projects

This item was discussed previously. Please see above.

17. Discuss & Act On 2020 Shoreland Restoration

There were two property owners initially interested in Shoreland Restoration program opportunities this year; however, one had moved and the other was no longer interested because of additional repairs that were needed to their shoreline before embarking on this project. EcoHarmony staff had been notified and was willing to work with the LLBMD in the future.

18. Update on LLBMD Website

Updated lake levels, agendas, and minutes had been added to the website since the last meeting.

a. Discuss LLBMD Website Information

Efforts were underway to begin design of the new LLBMD website anticipated for completion in early 2021. Discussion ensued regarding the type and amount of information to be provided on the new website.

19. Discuss & Act On Next Meeting Dates

The following dates were selected for meeting dates in 2021.

- March 18
- May 20
- July 15
- August 19 – Annual Meeting
- October 21

**K. Carr moved to approve the 2021 meeting dates as presented. J. Groose seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

20. Discuss & Act On 2021 Spring Newsletter

**K. Carr moved to proceed with the 2021 Spring LLBMD newsletter and to direct Accurate Business Communications, Inc., to author the newsletter. J. Bode seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

21. Discuss & Act On Payment Authorizations Until Next LLBMD Meeting

**E. Bollinger moved to authorize the Treasurer to pay the usual and customary bills of the LLBMD until the next Commissioner meeting anticipated for spring of 2021. K. Carr seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

22. Agenda Items For Next Meeting –March 18, 2021

- Update on LLBMD District Parcels
- Update on Commercial Roughfish Contract
- Update on West Wisconsin Avenue Dam Grates
- Update on Lac La Belle Creek Project
- Update on 2020 Grants – Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant, Lake Planning Grant & Targeted Runoff Management Grant Including Point Intercept Survey Report
- Update from North Lake on Wake Boat Regulations
- Update on Property Owned By the Lac La Belle Environmental Foundation
- Discuss & Act on Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant & 2021 Intergovernmental Agreement
- Discuss & Act On 2021 Shoreland Restoration

- Discuss & Act On 2021 Goose Round-Up
- Update on 2021 Spring Newsletter
- Update on LLBMD Website

23. Adjournment

**J. Groose moved to adjourn the October 15, 2020 Lac La Belle Management District meeting at 9:49 P.M. K. Carr seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

Minutes prepared by:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.